

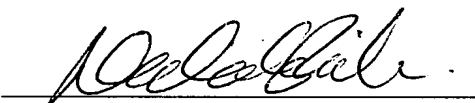
REMARKS

This application is being filed during the pendency of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/716,778, by virtue of the fact that a petition for a three-month extension of time was filed in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/716,778 on December 30, 2003, concurrently with the filing of the instant application.

The foregoing amendment to the specification is made in order provide a cross-reference to the parent application and the international application. Further, the claims have been amended to better conform to U.S. practice and to omit multiple dependencies.. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if there are any questions with respect to matters of form.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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December 30, 2003